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Description

Interception of groups of subscribers

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

This application claims the benefit of priority to European
5 Application No. 03001632.3 which was filed in the German
language on January 24, 2003, the contents of which are
hereby incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 The invention relates to methods and devices for
intercepting telecommunications connections.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In mobile radio networks, as is known to the person skilled
in the art, it is possible to have official monitoring
15 (interception) of telecommunications connections which are
routed to suspect subscribers, by comparing identification
information relating to telecommunications subscribers
taking part in the connection with stored lists of
telecommunications subscribers to be monitored when a
20 connection is established, with interception of the
telecommunications connection being initiated if
identification information of at least one
telecommunications subscriber is contained in a list of
identification information relating to telecommunications

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subscribers to be monitored.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to simplify the
5 process of establishing whether subscribers of a
telecommunications connection are to be intercepted. The
object is achieved by the objects of the independent claims
in each case.

By storing identification detail abbreviations which can be
10 parts of the identification details relating to a number of
subscribers in lists relating to telecommunication
subscribers to be intercepted it is possible to reduce the
number of list entries to be checked. It is also possible
to identify a very large number of telecommunications
15 subscribers with one identification detail abbreviation,
for example all subscribers with the prefix digits +49 89*.

In this case the identification detail abbreviation can
especially be part of an identification detail relating to
a mobile radio subscriber number, by which a large number
20 of mobile radio subscribers can be identified by one
identification detail abbreviation (+49 89*) of a large
area by one entry in a list of telecommunications
subscribers to be intercepted and simply identified as to
be intercepted. Likewise specific groups of international
25 mobile station equipment identities (IMEI) can be
identified for monitoring by abbreviations of terminal
numbers.

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Further It is possible to use the invention to identify for interception a plurality of telecommunications subscribers with specific e-mail addresses. In particular all telecommunications subscribers with a specific domain name
5 (*@aol.de or *@arcor.de etc.) can be entered for interception into a list of identification detail abbreviations.

The invention is especially suitable for use with telecommunications connections routed via mobile radio
10 networks and/or fixed networks and/or the Internet.

The checking can be done by equipment in a mobile radio network or by equipment connected to equipment of a mobile radio network.

The invention is intended for use by official bodies.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further features and advantages of the invention are produced by the claims and the subsequent description of an exemplary embodiment with reference to the drawing. The
20 Figure shows

Fig. 1 schematic diagram of the method and devices for interception of telecommunication connections in accordance with the invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A mobile radio terminal 1 of a subscriber 2 is to be connected to a mobile radio terminal 3 of a subscriber 4 via a telecommunications connection 6 routed via a
5 telecommunications network 5 (mobile radio network and/or fixed network and/or Internet). In this case an identification detail (relating to the international mobile subscriber (IMSI) and/or the mobile station equipment (IMEI) and/or an e-mail address) originating from a
10 subscriber terminal is compared on setup of the telecommunications connection 6 (or alternatively transferred on transmission of data packets over the telecommunications connection 6) by equipment 7 or by equipment 8 connected to it by comparison and decision
15 equipment 8 with a list 10, 11, 12 of identification detail abbreviations stored in a memory 9 in order to establish whether at least one of the subscribers makes an interception of the telecommunications connection necessary. To this end a check is made as to whether the
20 identification detail relating to a subscriber is contained in an identification detail abbreviation 10, 11, 12 in the stored list 9. For example a telephone number +49 172 89 12345 of a subscriber terminal 1 can be contained in an identification detail abbreviation +49 172 89* ("*" stands
25 for any given sequence) in the list 9, in which case the telecommunications connection 6 (with the terminal 1 of this subscriber 2) is monitored - for example in that a copy of data transmitted over the telecommunications

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connection 6 is transmitted over a connection 13 to an official intercepting center 14. Instead of a telephone number abbreviation, an identification detail abbreviation can also represent a part of an e-mail address of a subscriber 2, 4, especially for example the domain part of an e-mail address. Thus for example the identification detail abbreviation "@arcor.de" can contain an abbreviation of the identification detail "first name1.last name@arcor.de", "first name2.last name"@arcor.de", "first name3.last name3@arcor.de", i.e. an abbreviation of all e-mail specifications containing "@arcor.de". If, when a telecommunication connection is set up or on transmission of data over a telecommunications connection, identification details of one of the subscribers are transferred, the identification details relating to this subscriber or the other subscriber of the telecommunications connection can be compared by the comparison and decision equipment 8 with stored identification detail abbreviations in order to establish whether an identification detail 1 of a subscriber makes it necessary to intercept the telecommunications connection 6, and if necessary a transfer of a copy to an official intercepting center 14 can be initiated by equipment 7.

An identification detail can be any identification detail relating to a telecommunications subscriber, i.e. as well as a telephone number or an e-mail address an SIP address or voice-over-IP address or any number which could be used for IN applications (or also applications in other nodes)

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for a connection setup etc, such as credit card numbers,
auto numbers, zip codes.

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~~Claims~~ What is claimed is: